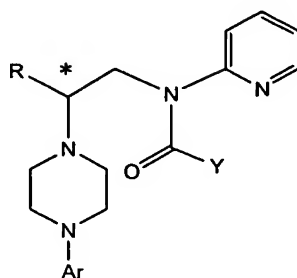


In the claims:

1. (Original) A process for preparing compound of formula VII



VII

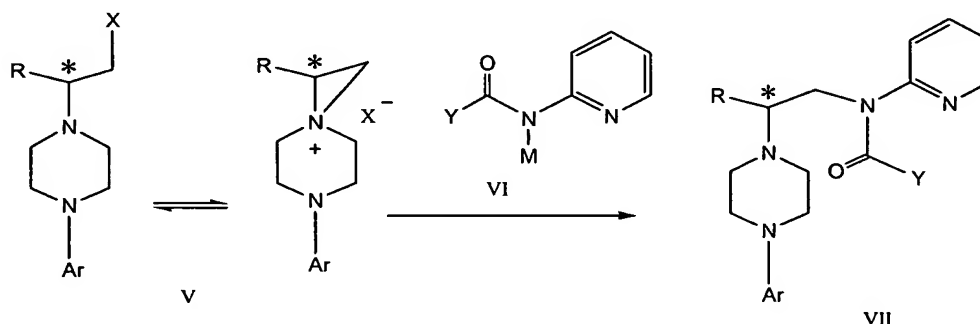
wherein

R is C₁-C₃ alkyl,

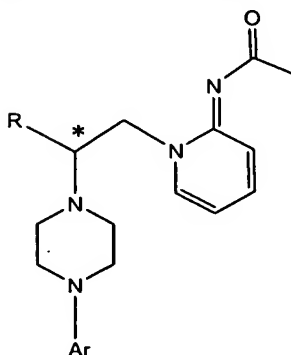
Y is O(t-butyl) and

Ar is 2,3-dihydro-benzodioxin-5-yl, or phenyl optionally substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from halogen, methoxy, halomethyl, dihalomethyl and trihalomethyl,

said process comprising the step of treating compound of formula V with compound of formula VI in an aprotic solvent



wherein M is an alkali metal and Y is O(t-butyl), said process resulting in the production of less than 7% of a compound of formula X

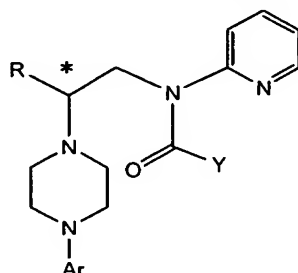


X

as a bi-product of the reaction.

2. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the solvent is THF.

3. (Currently amended) A compound of Formula VII



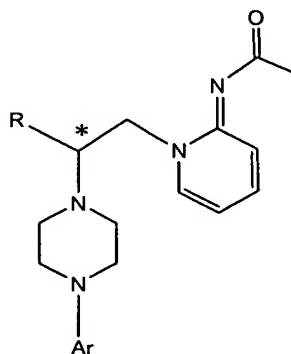
VII

wherein

R is C₁-C₃ alkyl,

Y is O(t-butyl) and

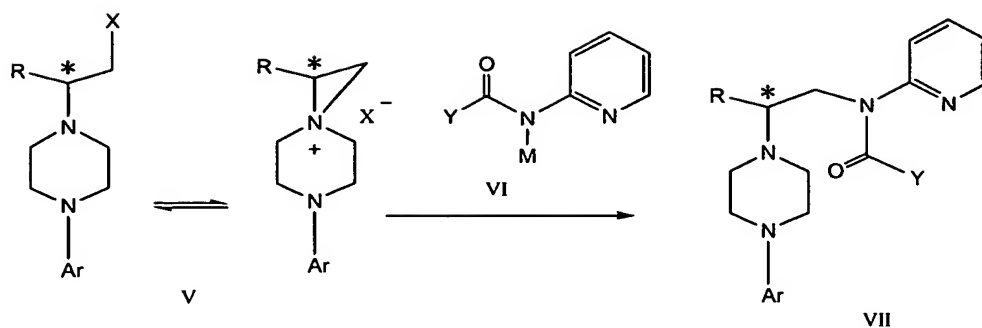
Ar is 2,3-dihydro-benzodioxin-5-yl, or phenyl optionally substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from halogen, methoxy, halomethyl, dihalomethyl and trihalomethyl, comprising less than 7% of a compound of Formula X



X

wherein R is C₁-C₃ alkyl, and Ar is 2,3-dihydro-benzodioxin-5-yl, or phenyl optionally substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from halogen, methoxy, halomethyl, dihalomethyl and trihalomethyl, as an impurity.

4. (Original) The compound of Claim 3 produced by treating the compound of formula V with a compound of formula VI in an aprotic solvent



wherein M is an alkali metal.

5. (Original) The compound of Claim 4 wherein the aprotic solvent is THF.